

Claims:

1. Apparatus for stimulation of the human body, the apparatus comprising:

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an array of stimulator elements arranged to be operated in a plurality of stimulator activation zone configurations; and

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a user interface device permitting the user to relate interface zones of the interface device to activation zones of the array of stimulator elements.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interface device permits spatial and/or temporal correlation between the zones of the interface device and the active zones of the activation zones of the array of stimulator elements.

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3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the interface device includes an interface zone array corresponding to the positional spacing of activation zones of the array of stimulator elements.

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4. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the interface device includes a screen providing output and/or permitting user input relating to the activation zones of the array of stimulator elements.

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5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the apparatus is operable in a mode in which user input to the interface device determines the activation zone configuration of the array of stimulator elements.

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6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the interface device includes an input zone array corresponding spatially to the activation zone configuration of the array of stimulator elements.

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7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the apparatus is operable in a mode in which the activation zone configuration of the array of stimulator elements is selected independently of the user and the user uses the interface device to identify the activation configuration as perceived by the user.
- 5 8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the interface device includes a selectable array of input zones corresponding to the activation zone array of the stimulator elements.
- 10 9. Apparatus according to claims 7 or 8, permitting switching between modes.
10. Apparatus according to any preceding claim further including means for storing results data.
- 15 11. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the array of stimulator elements are carried in a predetermined spatial relationship on a support member.
12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the support member comprises a garment to be worn by the user.
- 20 13. Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the garment comprises a corset to be worn by the user.
14. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the support member comprises an implant for insertion in the body.
- 25 15. Apparatus according to any of claims 11 to 14, wherein the support member includes barrier zones about the stimulator elements to maximise attenuation beyond the locality of the stimulator elements.
- 30 16. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the stimulator elements are arranged grid-wise in rows and columns.

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17. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the stimulator elements comprise vibrator devices.

18. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the stimulation intensity of the stimulator elements can be varied.

19. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the activation duration of the stimulator elements can be varied.

20. Apparatus according to any preceding claim including a control arrangement to control the interaction between the interface device and the stimulator element array.

21. Apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the apparatus includes data transmitting means whereby results from the apparatus can be downloaded to a processor by wire or wireless connections.

22. Apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the processor forms part of on or more of: a personal computer, a palm top computer, a lap top computer, a mobile phone, or a custom built device.

23. A method of stimulation of the human body, the method comprising stimulating the surface of the body with an array of stimulator elements, the array being operated to activate an activation zone configuration from a plurality of potential activation zone configurations, wherein the user interfaces with an interface device such that interface zones of the interface device correlate to the active activation zone configuration of the array of stimulator element.

24. A method according to claim 20, wherein the interface device includes an array of interface zones corresponding spatially to stimulator element activation zones.

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25. A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the user input to a spatial input zone array of the interface device effects a corresponding spatial activation of the stimulator array.
- 5 26. A method according to any of claims 20 to 22, wherein the activation zone of the stimulator element array is selected independently of the user, the users input to a spatial input array of the interface device being used to identify the users perception of the activation configuration of the array of stimulator elements.